



# Module 1: Who We Are and Our History



# Module Objectives

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**After this module, you should be able to:**

- **Explain the structure of the Military Health System**
- **Identify the TRICARE regions**
- **Explain the purpose of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)**
- **Define TRICARE and how it has evolved**



# The Military Health System

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- The Military Health System (MHS) is the interconnected and interdependent web of organizations that carry out the Military Health Care Mission
- The MHS is a unique worldwide partnership of medical educators, researchers, health care providers and experts
- The MHS supports health delivery activities, such as training and education centers for health professionals and global research and development centers



# Mission and Vision of the MHS

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## Mission:

- To provide optimal health services in support of our nation's military mission - anytime, anywhere

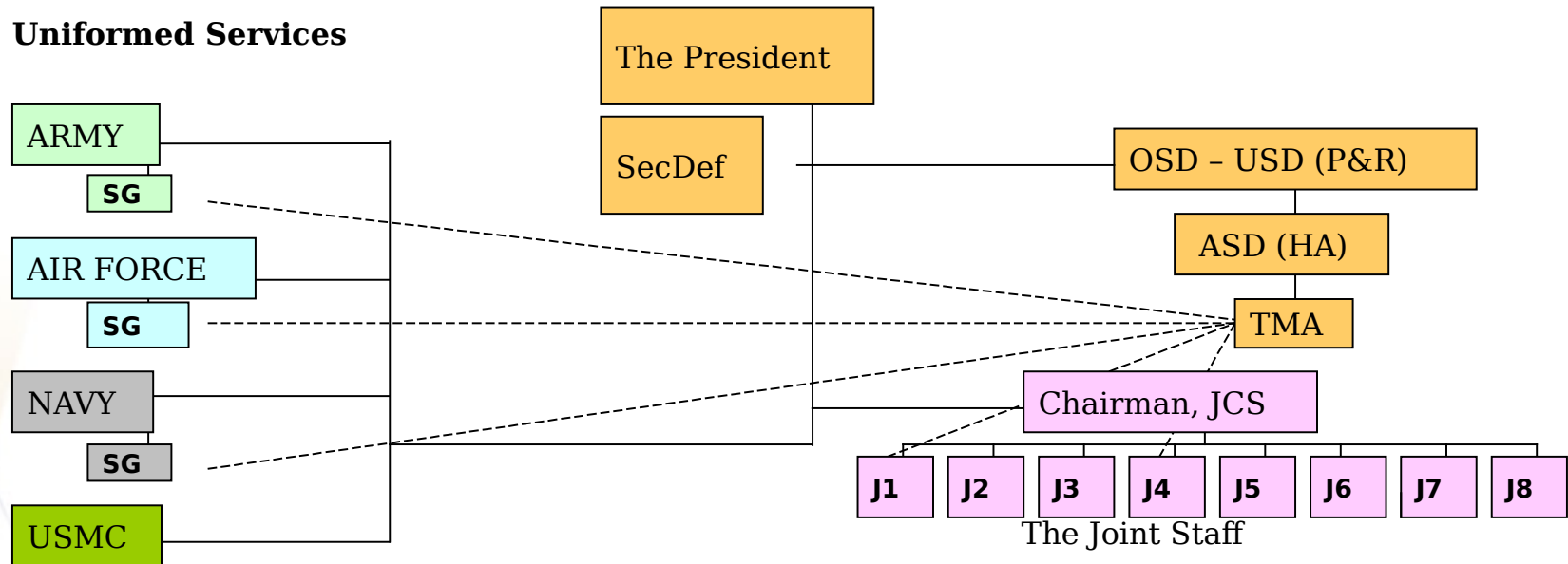
## Vision:

- The provider of premier care for our warriors and their families
- An integrated team ready to go into harm's way to meet our nation's challenges at home or abroad
- A leader in health education, training, research and technology
- A bridge to peace through humanitarian support
- A nationally recognized leader in prevention and health promotion



# MHS Organizational Structure

## Uniformed Services



SG - Surgeon General  
 OSD - Office of Secretary of Defense  
 USD - Under Secretary of Defense  
 P&R - Personnel and Readiness  
 ASD (HA) - Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)  
 SecDef - Secretary of Defense  
 JCS - Joint Chief of Staff



# TRICARE

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- TRICARE is the health care program serving active duty service members, National Guard and Reserve members, retirees, their families, survivors and certain former spouses worldwide
  - Brings together the health care resources of the uniformed services
  - Includes networks of civilian health care professionals, facilities, pharmacies and suppliers



# TRICARE Management Activity

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- In February 1998, TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) began managing the TRICARE program for active duty service members, their families and others entitled to DoD medical care
- As a chartered organization, TMA operates under the authority of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD/HA)
- Maintains readiness to support members of the Uniformed Services during military operations and provides medical services and support to members of the Uniformed Services, family members and others entitled to DoD medical care



# TMA and TRICARE

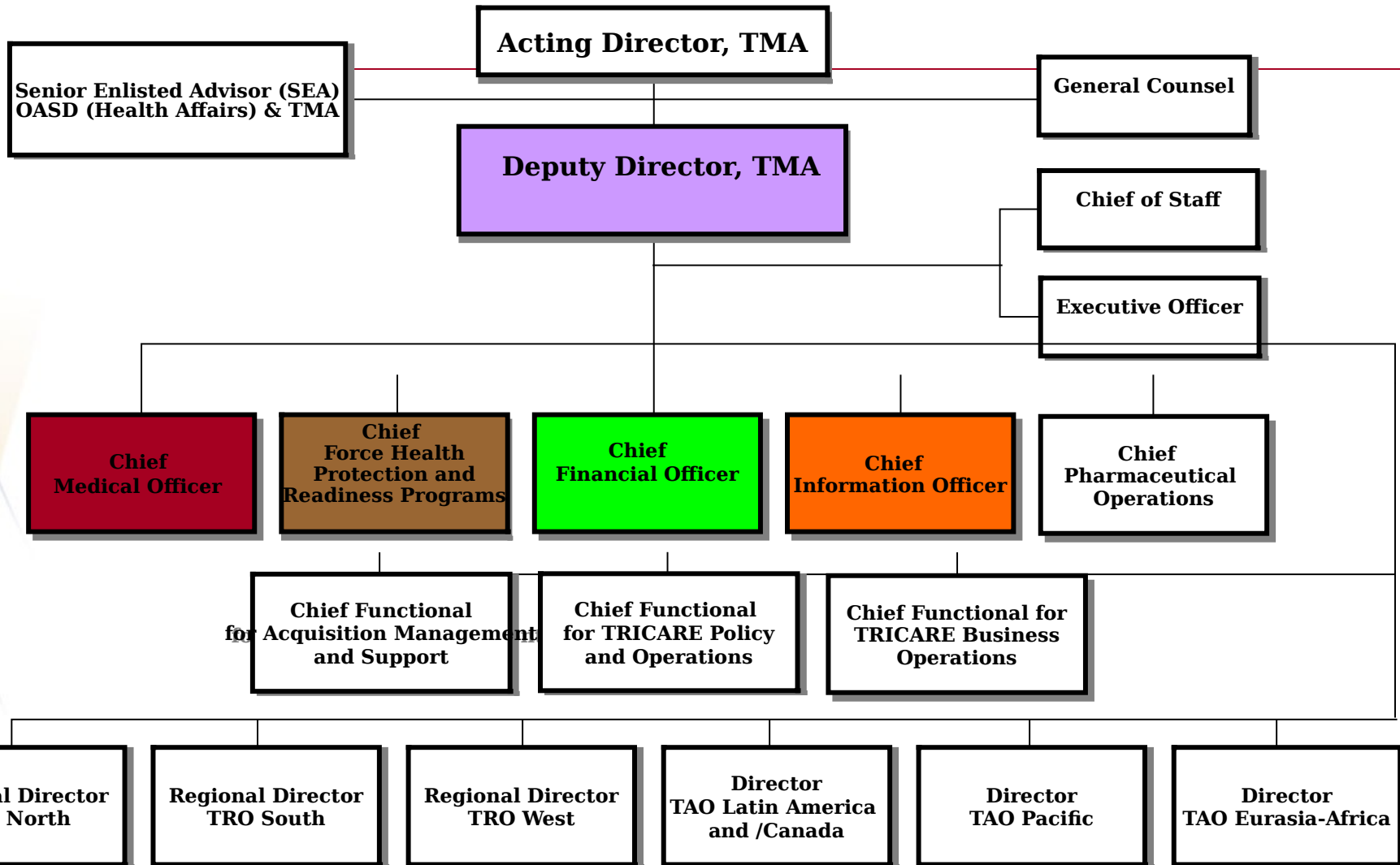
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- TMA manages TRICARE by:
  - Executing health affairs policy and developing TMA policy
  - Overseeing TRICARE's managed health care program for all uniformed services beneficiaries and their families worldwide
  - Managing all financial matters of TRICARE





# TMA/HA Organizational Chart



# TRICARE Regional Offices

- TRICARE has three stateside regions, each managed by TRICARE Regional Offices (TROs)
- The TRO also provides oversight of an integrated health care delivery system in the stateside regions
- The TROs are designated
  - **TRO-West**
  - **TRO-North**
  - **TRO-South**



# Roles Within the TRO

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## Roles include:

- **Medical Director:** responsible for referrals, utilization management and quality management
- **Managed Care Director:** responsible for networks, marketing and managing military health system support staff
- **Operations Director:** handles TRICARE Prime Remote and Reserve Component affairs
- **Information Management Director:** maintains computer systems; including personnel eligibility databases



# Regional Contractor

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- Each stateside TRICARE region has a regional contractor supporting and augmenting health care services available at MTFs
  - This is accomplished by developing a network of civilian providers and hospitals to meet the health care needs of TRICARE beneficiaries
- Regional contractor responsibilities include:
  - Establishing and maintaining the TRICARE Prime provider network
  - Operating beneficiary information lines and delivering customer service
  - Managing the referral function
  - Providing administrative support with enrollment, disenrollment and claims processing



# Military Treatment Facility

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- The MTF is a military hospital or clinic usually located on or near a military installation
- MTFs are found in every TRICARE region worldwide
- MTFs are the core of the MHS and the primary source of active duty health care whenever possible



# The MTF Commander

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- Manages health care delivery for the active duty service member and other TRICARE Prime enrollees assigned to the MTF
- May have providers refer patients to a network civilian provider if the MTF cannot provide the care or does not have capacity to provide the care to enrollees directly
- Sets priorities for assignment of MTF PCMs and works directly with the regional contractor in regards to network development, resource sharing arrangements and educational outreach



# MHS Support Staff - BCAC

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- Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator (BCAC)
  - Advocates for beneficiaries and provides assistance on TRICARE benefits
  - Serves at each TRICARE Regional Office, TRICARE Area Office (TAO) and MTF
  - Works closely with the TRO, TAO, MTF, regional contractor and claims processing contractor staff
  - Improves customer service and satisfaction, enhances beneficiary education and reduces congressional inquiries from beneficiaries
- The BCAC directory is available on the TRICARE Web site at [www.tricare.mil/bcacdcao/](http://www.tricare.mil/bcacdcao/)





# MHS Support Staff — DCAO

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- Debt Collection Assistance Officer (DCAO)
  - Serves at each TRICARE Regional Office, TRICARE Area Office and Military Treatment Facility
  - Becomes involved with the TRICARE beneficiary when notified of a collection action
  - Resolves TRICARE-related debt collection cases using established policies and guidelines
- The DCAO directory is available on the TRICARE Web site at [www.tricare.mil/bcacdcao](http://www.tricare.mil/bcacdcao)





# TRICARE Service Center

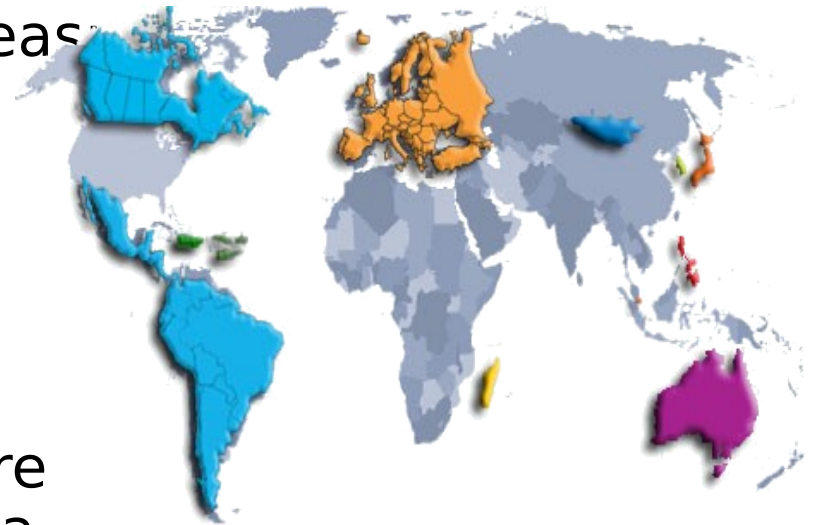
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- Usually located within or close to an MTF to provide information on and assistance with the TRICARE program
- Staffed by regional contractor employees
  - Is a separate entity from MTF staff
- Provides:
  - Information about TRICARE options
  - TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Reserve Select enrollments
  - Assistance with MTF PCM selection
  - Coordination of referrals for civilian specialty care
  - Assistance with claim issues
  - TRICARE network provider information



# TRICARE Overseas Regions

- Outside the Continental United States (OCONUS), there are three separate overseas areas:
  - TRICARE Eurasia-Africa
  - TRICARE Pacific
  - TRICARE Latin America and Canada
- The three overseas areas are managed by a TRICARE Area Office (TAO)
  - TAOs offer many of the same services offered by stateside regional contractors



# TRICARE Legislation

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- The following legislation assists in the development and advancement of TRICARE:
  - National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)
  - Defense Appropriations Act
  - Title 10
  - Title 32
  - Code of Federal Regulations (32 CFR) Part 199



# National Defense Authorization Act

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- The NDAA is under the jurisdiction of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees
- Under NDAA, Section VII pertains to Health Care
- The NDAA provides statutory direction across all DoD programs by either establishing, changing or eliminating programs and activities



# Defense Appropriations Act

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- Provides funding or budget authority for authorized agencies, programs and activities
- Establishes spending levels for programs and activities



# Title 10 and Title 32

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## Title 10

- The U.S. Code is divided into 50 titles
- Title 10 covers Armed Forces matters
- Chapter 55 of Title 10 covers medical and dental care
- When laws are enacted that affect military health care, Chapter 55 of Title 10 is normally amended

## Title 32

- U.S. Code title that covers National Guard affairs



# Code of Federal Regulations (32 CFR) Part 199

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- After the NDAA and Defense Appropriations Act become Public Law, executive departments and agencies implement laws by publishing their rules in the Federal Register
- The rules explain how the DoD will implement the statutory mandate/statutory discretion
- Part 199 contains the regulations published in the Federal Register relating to TRICARE



# The History of TRICARE

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- The program we know today as TRICARE has gone through many changes over the years
- In the 1980s, the search to improve access to medical care and maintain cost effectiveness led to CHAMPUS “demonstration” projects in various parts of the U.S.
- Foremost among these was the CHAMPUS Reform Initiative (CRI), which successfully offered service families a choice in how they used their military health care benefits
- In 1993, DoD officials, along with Congress, extended and improved the CRI which led to the worldwide health benefits program known as TRICARE





# The History of TRICARE

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- With the introduction of TRICARE, three options were implemented:
  - TRICARE Standard, a fee-for-service option (formerly CHAMPUS)
  - TRICARE Extra, a preferred provider option
  - TRICARE Prime, a managed care option
- Coverage, deductibles, cost shares, and claim filing rules stayed the same



# Staying Current with TRICARE

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- There are several online resources available to help MHS support staff and beneficiaries stay current on TRICARE benefits
  - [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil) – For access to policy information and fact sheets
  - [GovDelivery](#) – Offers electronic news blasts and benefit updates
  - [TRICARE Media Center](#) – Offers news releases and updates via podcasts, Facebook and Twitter
  - [TRICARE University](#) – Offers TRICARE education and training resources



# **Congratulations! You've Completed Module 1: Who We Are and Our History**

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